

# Garbage Gazette

## Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

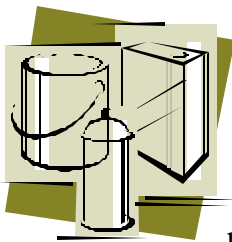
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### Household Hazardous Waste Participation Shows Steady Increase

In 1999, 30,500 residents of Connecticut brought their hazardous household chemicals to collections for proper and safe disposal. This represents a 15% increase over the number of participants in 1996. Participation rates have increased every year since 1996 when records were first evaluated by the DEP.

Only three of Connecticut's 169 municipalities did not have access to at least one collection during the last four years. Most towns had access to more than one collection day. Studies have shown that the majority of users are from single family homes. In 1999, 3.5% all Connecticut single family homes participated in a collection. Connecticut probably has one of the higher participation rates in the country. All towns should strive to achieve 4% annual participation based on the number of single family homes.



There may be several reasons for this increase in participation. Prices for HHW collections decreased dramatically about four years ago. As a result, municipal officials in Connecticut are better able to commit financial resources to household hazardous waste collections. They provide funding for annual collections and promote participation. Greater public awareness of the dangers of household hazardous waste is probably another factor.

The Town of Wilton has supplanted Ellington as the leader in HHW participation in Connecticut. Over the past four years, Wilton has averaged 10.9% participation. The town has promoted the program well and holds the annual collections on the same weekend and at the same site every year for greater convenience.

### RBRC to Expand Battery Recycling Program

Beginning January 2001, the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) will expand its existing battery recycling program to include Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH) and Lithium Ion (Li-ion) rechargeable batteries commonly found in cellular phones, laptop computers and other portable electronic products. In addition, Small Sealed Lead Acid (Pb) rechargeable batteries that power camcorders and other portable electronic products will be recycled.



The RBRC's battery recycling program, *Charge Up to Recycle!*, currently takes back Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cd) rechargeable batteries—the power source in cordless phones and power tools—through retail stores, community collection centers and businesses across the U.S. and Canada. To get information on the closest retail outlet that will accept your batteries for recycling, call the toll-free consumer helpline at (800) -8-BATTERY.

### Middletown Electronics Collection Draws 250 Participants

The City of Middletown's electronics collection event drew 250 participants from Middletown and surrounding towns. They are still waiting for final tonnages from their vendor, Envirocycle from Pennsylvania. A large number of console televisions were collected at the event. The CT Resources Recovery Authority has also been sponsoring a number of electronics collections this spring. For more information about locations and dates contact Kathy Dube at (860) 757-7738.

## CBEC Plans Business Recognition Ceremony

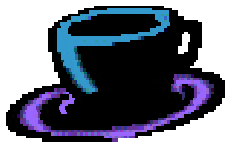
On Tuesday, June 13, 2000, the Connecticut Business and Environmental Council (CBEC) will host its first Annual Recognition & Awards Reception at the Radisson Inn in Bristol. The event is designed to acknowledge and award those businesses that have achieved excellence in recycling.



The Council, previously a grant recipient of the DEP's, has in recent years received grants from the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority and the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee.

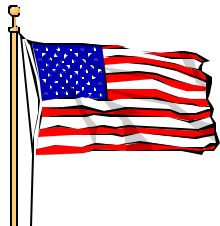
CBEC's purpose is to help businesses within the project areas by conducting waste reviews. Over one hundred and fifty businesses have been visited, and the Council would like to recognize the efforts that have been made by those in the business community.

## Connecticut Recycles Day Events Planning Workshop Scheduled



The Connecticut Recycles Day Steering Committee is planning a repeat of its annual training for event organizers. ***This workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2000 at the CRRA Visitors Center on 211 Murphy Road in Hartford.*** The program is planned to run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The three new displays mentioned in last month's Gazette should be available to make their public debut at this meeting. The working committees (Green school, fundraising, special events and PR) will give their progress reports and several speakers will discuss how to integrate reuse into your next America Recycles Day Event. The "Earth to Kids-What You Do is Up to You." 40-ft environmental education van, owned by the city of Danbury and operated by the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, will be available for guided tours. If you have any questions about the van contact Paul Avery from HRRA at (203) 775-6256, or visit the website [www.hrra.org](http://www.hrra.org) to view a picture of the van.

There is no fee to attend this workshop, but pre-registration will be required. An agenda and registration form will be sent out in mid-May to last year's event organizers and all municipal recycling contacts. Please contact Meg Enkler at (860) 424-3238 if you are not on either of these lists and would like to receive a registration form.



## The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual America Recycles Day is November 15, 2000



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Meg Enkler, Waste Bureau/Recycling  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
<http://dep.state.ct.us>

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